

Attorney Docket # 3415-11CIP

Serial No. 09/688,482
Amdt. dated June 4, 2004
Reply to Final Rejection dated April 5, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of securely delivering to a delivery destination a tote for holding an item, the method comprising the steps of:

placing the item in a tote, wherein said tote comprises a cover, a main structure, ~~and~~ a first pair of eyelets on a first side of an exterior of the tote, including a first [of the pair of] eyelet[s] on an exterior of the cover and a second [of the pair of] eyelet[s] on the exterior of the main structure substantially in proximity to the first eyelet, and a second pair of eyelets on a second side of the exterior of the tote, including a third eyelet on the exterior of the cover and a fourth eyelet on the exterior of the main structure substantially in proximity to the third eyelet;

delivering the tote to a delivery destination; and

securing the tote substantially at the delivery destination by:

looping a portion of a first securing means through the first pair of eyelets to securely tighten the cover to the main structure of the tote on the first side, wherein the first securing means is securely connected to a mounting means substantially at the delivery destination; and

looping a second securing means through the third and fourth eyelets to securely tighten the cover to the main structure of the tote on the second side.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first securing means is securely connected to a storage container mounted in proximity to the delivery destination, and wherein the method further comprises the step of:

holding the first securing means inside the storage container when the first securing means is not in use.

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3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the mounting means comprises a first and second mounting means, wherein the first securing means comprises a plurality of sections, a first end of a first section of the plurality of sections being securely connected to the first mounting means, and a first end of a third section of the plural sections being securely connected to the second mounting means, and wherein the step of securing the tote substantially at the delivery destination comprises the steps of:

looping a first end of a second section of the plurality of sections through and around the first and second eyelets to securely tighten the cover to the main structure of the tote[~~§~~]
on the first side, wherein [locking] a second end of the third section is attached to a second end of the second section with a first lock that may be opened by a customer, and

after looping the first end of the second section around the first and second eyelets, locking the first end of the second section to a second end of the first section with a second lock that may be opened by a delivery person.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

retrieving, by the customer, the tote by unlocking the first lock and removing the looped section of the first securing means from the first and second eyelets.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the tote further comprises a hinge on a second side of the tote to connect the cover to the main structure of the tote.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the item comprises a grocery item, and wherein the method further comprises the step of:

maintaining the grocery item at a desired temperature by placing a frozen insert in the tote in proximity to the grocery item.

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8-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A method of securely delivering to a delivery destination a tote for holding an item, comprising the steps of:

placing the item in a tote, wherein said tote comprises a cover, a main structure, and a pair of eyelets on an exterior of the tote, including a first of the pair of eyelets on exterior of the cover and a second of the pair of eyelets on the exterior of the main structure substantially in proximity to the first eyelet;

delivering the tote to a delivery destination; and

securing the tote substantially at the delivery destination, wherein the delivery destination has a securing means for securing the tote at the delivery destination, wherein the securing means is securely connected to first and second mounting means at the delivery destination, wherein the securing means comprises a plurality of sections, a first end of a first section of the plurality of sections being securely connected to the first mounting means, and a first end of a third section of the plural sections being securely connected to the second mounting means, and wherein said step of securing the tote comprises the steps of:

looping a first end of a second section of the plurality of sections through and around the first and second eyelets to securely tighten the cover to the main structure of the tote, wherein a second end of the third section is attached to a second end of the second section with a first lock that may be opened by a customer; and

after looping the first end of the second section around the first and second eyelets, locking the first end of the second section to a second end of the first section with a second lock that may be opened by a delivery person.

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22. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

retrieving, by the customer, the item from the tote by first unlocking the first lock and removing the looped section of the securing means from the first and second eyelets.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the first and second mounting means are securely connected to a storage container mounted in proximity to the delivery destination, and wherein the method further comprises the step of:

holding the securing means inside the storage container when the securing means is not in use.

24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the tote further comprises a second pair of eyelets on a second side of the tote, including a third eyelet on the exterior of the cover and a fourth eyelet on the exterior of the main structure substantially in proximity to the third eyelet, and wherein the step of securing the tote substantially at the delivery destination comprises the step of:

looping a second securing means through the third and fourth eyelets to securely tighten the cover to the main structure of the tote on the second side.

25. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the tote further comprises a hinge on a second side of the tote to connect the cover to the main structure of the tote.

26. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the item comprises a grocery item, and wherein the method further comprises the step of:

maintaining the grocery item at a desired temperature by placing a frozen insert in the tote in proximity to the grocery item.

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27. (New) A method of securely delivering to a delivery destination a plurality of totes for holding a plurality of item, comprising the steps of:

placing the plural items in the plural totes, wherein each of said plural totes comprises a cover, a main structure, and a pair of eyelets on an exterior of the tote, including a first of the pair of eyelets on exterior of the cover and a second of the pair of eyelets on the exterior of the main structure substantially in proximity to the first eyelet;

delivering the plural totes to a delivery destination; and

securing the plural totes substantially at the delivery destination, wherein the delivery destination has a securing means for securing the plural totes at the delivery destination, wherein the securing means is securely connected to first and second mounting means at the delivery destination, wherein the securing means comprises a plurality of sections, a first end of a first section of the plurality of sections being securely connected to the first mounting means, and a first end of a third section of the plural sections being securely connected to the second mounting means, and wherein said step of securing the plural totes comprises the steps of:

looping a first end of a second section of the plurality of sections through and around the first and second eyelets of each of the plural totes to securely tighten the cover of each tote to the main structure of each tote, wherein a second end of the third section is attached to a second end of the second section with a first lock that may be opened by a customer; and

after looping the first end of the second section around the first and second eyelets of all of the plural totes, locking the first end of the second section to a second end of the first section with a second lock that may be opened by a delivery person.

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28. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of:

retrieving, by the customer, the plurality of items from the plural totes by first unlocking the first lock and removing the looped section of the securing means from the first and second eyelets of each tote.

29. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the first and second mounting means are securely connected to a storage container mounted in proximity to the delivery destination, and wherein the method further comprises the step of:

holding the securing means inside the storage container when the securing means is not in use.

30. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein each of the plural totes further comprises a second pair of eyelets on a second side of the tote, including a third eyelet on the exterior of the cover and a fourth eyelet on the exterior of the main structure substantially in proximity to the third eyelet, and wherein the step of securing the plural totes substantially at the delivery destination further comprises the step of:

looping a second securing means through the third and fourth eyelets of each of the plural totes to securely tighten the cover of each tote to the main structure of each tote on the second side of each tote.

31. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein each of the plural totes further comprises a hinge on a second side of the tote to connect the cover to the main structure of the tote.

32. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the plural items comprises grocery items, and wherein the method further comprises the step of:

maintaining at least one of the grocery items at a desired temperature by placing a frozen insert in proximity to the grocery item in a tote in which the at least one of the grocery items was placed.